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OPTIONAL FORM 41 (Rev. 7-76)

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* U.S.G.P.O.: 1983 -421-529/320

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FROM THE DESK OF . . .

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT TO THE DDA

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This is an excellent response from D/OIT to the ExDir's queries.

Standards: Most are coordinated, approved, and forwarded in the attached memo; Service level standards will be done in March.

workstation Networking: working closely with the C/SC; commitment to provide service; will deliver a standard in April; will have a test-bed in place during FYBT.

Acquisitions: will have a new procurement vehicle in place for FY88; working to integrate Wang Alliance and VS with maintrame.

(Inside sources tell me that Ed Malaney personally gets the credit for this forward-leaning response—over some objections from his staffs who wanted to be fuzzy on dates and deliverables.)

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TRANSMITTAL SLIP		2 4 DEC 1986	
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FORM NO. 1 FEB 56 241

REPLACES FORM 36-8 WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

OIT 1056-86

24 DEC 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Director

VIA:

Deputy Director for Administration

FROM:

Edward J. Maloney

Director of Information Technology

SUBJECT:

Standards Activities

50-1

- 1. This memorandum responds to your request of 3 December for a review of OIT and Customer/Standards Committee progress toward three goals established in your memorandum of 13 May 1986: the development of a set of communications, interface and service standards for the Agency, the identification of workstation networking options and the development of guidelines in this area, and setting a deadline to end the purchase of standalone word processing equipment and other equipment that does not meet Agency standards.
- 2. Standards. We have developed an initial set of standards and statements of direction for strategic interfaces, that will allow the use of OIT mainframe computer systems to connect Agency computing systems. Those standards cover terminal interfaces, mail interfaces, document exchange and database management system access. They have been coordinated within OIT, unanimously accepted by the Customer/Standards Committee, and adopted by D/OIT; they are now in the publication cycle. The standard for levels of service has proved to be more complex to develop, since it covers the full range of OIT's services, with availability and performance levels for each. We expect to complete OIT work on this standard by 1 March 1987.
- 3. Workstation Networking. When we accepted the goal of 1 December 1986 for establishing standards and guidelines for the networking of workstations, it is clear that we underestimated the complexity of this problem and the effort required by our commitment to standards development. Our consideration of options that are appropriate for Agency use includes the following:
 - o committed and planned equipment installation, including the PBX and our project to begin the design and installation of a fiber-optic broadband carrier system in the Headquarters compound in FY 1988.

0	the wiring characteristics of our buildings, specifically the in
	place and planned wire grids and wire closets, for present and new
	Headquarters buildings and

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o a technology that does not yet have a clearly established mainstream, particularly with regard to the integration of PCs and departmental processors with IBM mainframes.

Our customers have articulated requirements to interconnect their workstations so that they can write and print independently of OIT mainframes, as well as access applications running on OIT mainframes. We recognize the importance of these requirements, and we intend to meet them fully, within resource limitations.

We have asked the members of the Customer/Standards Committee to provide us with statements of their functional requirements for the networking of workstations, and we have begun a series of meetings within OIT and with the Office of Security to address these issues.

We plan to have a standard for workstation interfaces to local area networks completed by 1 April 1987, so that our customers will be able to plan their equipment acquisitions. Before the end of FY 1987 we will make a testbed installation of our standard local area network for selected customers, to gain experience with this technology.

4. Noncomforming Acquisitions. The Agency has a sizable inventory of standalone word processing equipment, such as NBI and Lanier, that cannot readily be integrated with OIT mainframes. Purchase of such equipment should be discontinued now; we will work with the Office of Logistics to provide procurement guidance in this area.

We have also purchased Wang Alliance systems that can be integrated with OIT mainframes by connecting the Alliance processors to Wang VS processors, and then connecting the VS processors to OIT systems. We have received requests for connection of Wang Alliance systems to OIT systems, and we are proceeding to provide a feasibility test of that connectivity as well as a plan for its full-scale production use. However, Wang Alliance systems do not conform to Agency interface standards; by the time the Wang contract expires at the end of FY 1987 we will have an alternative procurement vehicle in place that can be used to procure systems that comply with standards.

When our standards are published, we will prepare a Headquarters Regulation requiring that all procurement actions for ADP equipment beginning over 30 days after standards publication include a statement regarding compliance or noncompliance with standards. During a transition period our standards will be advisory in nature, and we will work cooperatively with our customers, advising voluntary compliance. By the beginning of FY 1988, either compliance or a formal waiver will be required.

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Edward J. Maloney